

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

A-01 /093 W

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P R 251215Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2948

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CASC, AG

SUBJ: STRIKE HITS AMERICAN FIRM

1. UNION IN ORAN STRIKING WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL COMPANY, U.S. SEISMIC SURVEY FIRM HERE ON CONTRACT WITH SONATRACH, OVER ALLEGED ANTI-ALGERIAN STATEMENTS AND ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF WORKERS BY DUTCH PERSONNEL CHIEF. UNION DEMANDING THAT DUTCHMAN BE EXPELLED AND CRITICIZING AMERICAN SUPERVISOR FOR NOT DOING IT. DUTCHMAN DETAINED BY POLICE FOR QUESTIONING SINCE 23 AUGUST AND ONE AMERICAN AND ONE CANADIAN CALLED IN BY POLICE 25 AUGUST FOR QUESTIONING. US CONSUL COLBERT AND WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL VICE PRESIDENT, WHO ARRIVED IN ORAN LAST NIGHT, IN CONTACT WITH POLICE ON AMERICAN.

2. ON APPARENT PRINCIPLE OF USING ANY STICK TO BEAT A DOG, ORAN DAILY LA REPUBLIQUE ACCUSING DUTCHMAN OF BENEFITING FROM "OCCULT PROTECTION" AND NOTED THAT HIS METHODS "BRING TO MIND METHODS OF THE CIA." LA REPUBLIQUE ALSO REPORTS THAT DUTCHMAN INVOLVED RECENTLY MADE A "MYSTERIOUS VOYAGE" OF FIVE DAYS TO RABAT IN AMERICAN CONSULATE CAR. (DUTCHMAN AND HIS WIFE CLOSE FRIENDS OF COLBERTS AND THE COUPLE DID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECENTLY ACCOMPANY MRS. COLBERT ON PERSONAL TRIP TO RABAT.)

3. WHAT LIES BEHIND CAMPAIGN UNCERTAIN. SIMMERING STRIKES BECOMING INCREASING PART OF ALGERIAN SCENE; SAME UNION STRUCK WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL IN MAY FOR BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THEY REFLECT REGIME'S INTENTION TO PROCEED TO FURTHER NATIONALIZATIONS OF PRIVATE SECTOR. OTHERS BELIEVE THEY REFLECT LATENT POPULAR DISCONTENT WHICH CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES INCREASINGLY SURFACING AND WHICH REGIME NOT YET RESOLVED TO REPRESS; IF LATTER THESIS IS TRUE, THERE STILL NO INDICATION SUCH DISCONTENT YET COHERENT OR ORGANIZED.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GEOLOGY, LABOR STRIKES, SEISMIC PROSPECTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ALGIER01874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750293-0618
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750819/aaaaaqpy.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRIKE HITS AMERICAN FIRM
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CASC, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006